

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8433

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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SUBJECT: GOLAN ARTICLE ON ALLEGED SYRIAN DEMAND
FOR ISRAEL WITHDRAWALS

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF SEPT 30
FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT MATTY
GOLAN ENTITLED " SYRIANS DEMAND EVACUATION OF MERON
GOLAN, EL ROM AND KUNEITRA HILLS WITHIN FRAMEWORK
OF NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT."

2. BEGIN TEXT. IN CONTACTS WHICH HAVE RECNETLY BEEN
HELD BETWEEN JERUSALEM, WASHINGTON AND DAMASCUSN, IT
WAS CLARFIED THATTHE SYRIANS DEMAND AN ISRAELI WITH-
DRAWAL FROM THE SETTLEMENTS OF MEROM GOLAND AND EL
ROM AND FROM THE KUNEITRA HILLS, WITHIN THE FRAME-
WORK OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT. IN ADDTION TO THE
WITHDRAWAL IN THE KUNEITRA REGION,
THE SYRIANS ALSO DEMAND A WITHDRAWAL ALL ALONG THE
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LINE TO A DEPTH OF AT LEST 5 KMS.

3. AUTHROIATIVE SOURCES IN JERUSALEM SAID THAT FROM THESE DEMANDS IH CAN BE DISCERNED THAT IT IS THE SYRIAN TACTIC TO CONCENTRATE APPARENTLY ON TWO AIMS: THE EVACUATION OF THE KUNEITRA HILLS AND AS LARGE A NUMBER OF SETTLEMENTS AS POSSIBLE.

4. HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT NOTES THAT THE KUNEITRA HILLS WERE THE SUBJECT OF A SHARP QUARREL AT THE TIME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN MAY 1974. SEVERAL TIMES THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE ON THE VERGE OF A BREAKDOWN AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND, UNTIL EVENTUALLY THE SYRIANS DROPPED THEIR DEMAND FOR AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE HILLS, AFTER ISREL HAD AGREED TO LIMIT THE TYPE OF WEAPONS THAT WOULD BE LOCATED ON THE SUMMIT OF THE HILLS.

5. THE ASSUMPTION IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES IN JERUSALEM IS THAT SOONER OR LATER ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO FACE AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL, ACCORDING TO WHICH ISRAEL WOULD RECEIVE, IN EXCHANGE FOR A WITHDRAWAL FROM THE HILLS, THE PERMISSION TO SET UP ON THE HILLS WARNING SYSTEMS SIMILAR TO THOSE SET UP IN THE MITLA AND GIDI PASSES. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE U.S. PROPOSAL WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE STATIONING OF U.S. TECHNICIANS AT THE WARNING SYSTEMS- AND IT SEEMS THAT THIS DEPENDS ON THE EXTENT OF OPPOSITION OR AGREEMENT THAT WILL BE SHOWN TO THE STATIONING OF U.S. TECHNICIANS IN THE PASSES.

6. THE FIRST ISRAELI REACTION TO THIS DEMAND WAS A DEFINITE REFUSAL, WITH EMPHASIS THAT AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN THE KUNEITRA REGION COULD NOT GO BEYOND 200-300 METERS, IN SUCH A WAY THAT BOTH THE HILLS AND THE SETTLEEMTNS SHOULD REMAIN IN ISRAELI-HELD TERRITORY. HOWEVER, IN JERUSALEM, HEAVY U.S. PRESSURE IS EXPECTED FOR A FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE SYRIAN DEMANDS. END TEXT.

7. HAARETZ THEN CARRIES AFP DESPATCH FROM WASHINGTON CITING WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN RON NESSEN'S STATEMENT REAFFIRMING THAT THE ADMINISTRATON INTENDS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTINUE WITH ITS EFFORTS TO OEPN NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA. ARTICLE ENDS WITH WIRE SERVICE REPORT ON SECRETARY'S REMAKRS TO ARAB DIPLOMATS THAT NEXT STEP OF U.S. DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE AN ATTEMTP TO BRING ABOUT TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA AND TO STUDY THE INTEGRATION OF THE PALESTINIANS IN AN OVERALL PEACE TREATY.

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